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LETTER DATED 21 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the ceasefire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 20 November 1999 and 14 February 2000, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Iranian violations of the ceasefire and the 1991 Tehran agreement, 20 November 1999-14 February 2000

1. 20 November 1999

An Iranian patrol seized launch No. 195/Basrah, owned by Ghazi Khalaf, and arrested the seamen listed hereunder while they were fishing near Mina' al-Bakr. They and the launch were taken to the port of Bandar Abu Shahr in Iran, and they were detained at the Iranian Diz police station for 16 days before being released on 8 December 1999. They were: Sabah Ghazi Khalaf; Isa Abd al-Razzaq Taha; Isa Jasim; Adnan Najm Abd Allah; Ali Husayn Fakhir; Abd al-Zahrah Ghafil; Talib Abd al-Husayn; and Ali Salman Faysal.

2. 5 January 2000

At 1900 hours three late-model Landcruiser pick-up vehicles entered from the Iranian side by way of the Ayn al-Abd post at coordinates 245471 (Wadi Dirmani) moving towards Shihabi. At 2200 hours it returned to the Iranian rear by the same route.

3. 14 January 2000

At 2300 hours the United Arab Emirates tanker Victoria was subjected to an act of piracy by Iranian boats at coordinates 2944.7 north latitude and 4850.0 east longitude. A crew armed with assault rifles and handguns boarded the vessel and directed random fire as follows: in the wheelhouse the windscreens were broken and more that 25 rounds are estimated to have been fired; the port and starboard lifeboats were hit by more than six rounds; the chief officer's cabin was penetrated by two rounds; the second officer's cabin was penetrated by one round; the funnel was hit by more than six rounds; the battery housing was hit by two rounds; and the side of the tanker was hit by more than 60 rounds. No injuries were suffered by the members of the tanker's crew, all of whom were Iraqis. It should be noted that the tanker was inside Iraqi territorial waters and that this was the second attack on it by Iranian elements.

4. 24 January 2000

At 0900 hours the Iranian side proceeded to erect a metal tower at coordinates 8436 (1:100,000 map of Baydah) opposite the Iraqi units. The work is still under way.

5. 24 January 2000

At 1800 hours the Iranian side placed three soldiers in each of the forward monitoring posts opposite the Qat'ah area at coordinates 289678, 286666 and 303624 and opposite Shayhan at coordinates 311582 and 318572. At 0600 hours on 25 January 2000 the soldiers withdrew from the posts.

6. 26 January 2000

At 1030 hours two Iranian helicopters were seen hovering inside Iranian territory opposite the Iraqi units at coordinates 5528. At 1100 hours the same two helicopters were seen in the sector, and at 1145 hours they returned to the Iranian rear.

7. 27 January 2000

At 1000 hours an Iranian helicopter was seen hovering over the border strip opposite the Iraqi units at coordinates 8009. At 1010 hours it returned to the Iranian rear.

8. 27 January 2000

The Iranian side continued its reed-burning activities along the Iranian shore between the area opposite Shayhan at coordinates 328569 and the Abadan area at coordinates 397573 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). The burning continued from 0900 hours until 1800 hours.

9. 28 January 2000

At 0930 hours five vehicles of a type used by civilian establishments and carrying a number of persons accompanied by a man in a turban approached in order to visit the monument on the shore opposite Faw at coordinates 370226 (1:100,000 map of Faw). At 1030 hours the vehicles withdrew from the area and headed towards the Iranian rear carrying the same persons.

10. 28 January 2000

At 1200 hours a civilian commercial vehicle and a Landcruiser vehicle carrying a number of persons approached in order to visit the monument opposite Faw city. At 1530 hours the two vehicles withdrew to the Iranian rear.

11. 28 January 2000

At 1100 hours three civilian commercial vehicles carrying a number of persons approached to visit the monument opposite Faw city. At 1200 hours the vehicles withdrew to the Iranian rear.

12. 29 January 2000

At 1600 hours a helicopter was seen inside Iranian territory flying over the Iranian units in the Mehran sector.

13. 29 January 2000

At 1030 hours a helicopter was seen landing at the Iranian post opposite the Kirmashiyah post at coordinates 1046. It then flew inside Iranian territory opposite the Iraqi Ziyadi post at coordinates 1647.

14. 31 January 2000

At 0800 hours the Iranian side proceeded to burn the reeds opposite the Fada'iyah area at coordinates 451505 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

15. 31 January 2000

At 0800 hours an Iranian engineering unit began work on completing the metal structures located along the Iranian shore of the Shatt al-Arab between the area opposite Duwayb at coordinates 448507 and the Iranian Khosrowabad area at coordinates 517413 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). The work consists of painting the structures green and welding any damaged parts.

16. 31 January 2000

At 1200 hours an Iranian helicopter was seen flying inside Iranian airspace over the Muhammarah area. It continued to fly on for five minutes and then withdrew to the Iranian rear.

17. 1 February 2000

At 1100 hours the Iranian side opened a new monitoring post at coordinates 5839 (1:100,000 map of Mandali). It is manned by three or four persons with light weapons and a PKC medium machine-gun.

18. 1 February 2000

At 1630 hours two Iranian soldiers from the Iranian guard post at coordinates 9965 approached to within 150 metres of the Arafat post at coordinates 9765. They fired 10 rounds at the post from a GC half-stock assault rifle, and at 1645 hours they returned to their own guard post.

19. 2 February 2000

At 1400 hours a helicopter was seen flying over the Ayn al-Ghazlani post at coordinates 7823 and coming from the Iranian rear over the border strip opposite the Hilah post at coordinates 7818. At 1410 hours it returned to the Iranian rear.

20. 2 February 2000

At 1930 hours two Landcruiser vehicles, one khaki-coloured and the other mottled, were seen carrying a number of persons in military dress. They came to a halt at coordinates 7221 and the occupants proceeded to observe our units for a short time before returning to the Iranian rear.

21. 2 February 2000

At 1400 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was seen coming from the Fakkah sector towards the Halfayah post at coordinates 6814, flying at an altitude of 300 metres and at a distance of 700 metres from the border strip. At 1425 hours it returned to the Iranian rear.

22. 3 February 2000

At 1300 hours the Iranian engineering unit began work on completing the metal structures located opposite the Ma'amir area at coordinates 549275 (1:100,000 map of Saybah), painting them green. The unit consisted of five persons wearing blue overalls and a small pontoon towed by a small boat with a 48-horse-power motor.

23. 3 February 2000

At 0930 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was seen coming from the Iranian rear and landing at coordinates 5151 near the Fakkah post. At 1000 hours it took off and headed towards the Saddam post flying parallel to the border strip. From there it headed towards the Iranian rear.

24. 3 February 2000

At 1530 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was seen coming from the Iranian rear towards the Shaykh Faris area at coordinates 5151. It then changed direction, flying along the border strip towards the Saddam post at coordinates 4256. It then returned to the Iranian rear.

25. 4 February 2000

At 1130 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was seen at an altitude of 30 metres coming from coordinates 5739 towards coordinates 5234, Zorbatiyah at coordinates 3045, and coordinates 3230, flying parallel to the border strip. It then returned to the Iranian rear.

26. 4 February 2000

At 1400 hours three khaki-coloured Iranian helicopters were seen coming from the Iranian rear towards Mehran city and landing at coordinates 083622. At 1430 hours they left for an area north of Mehran.

27. 8 February 2000

At 1600 hours the Iranian side pitched two 180-pound tents at coordinates 3093 opposite the Tib post. They were occupied by six persons armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles.

28. 9 February 2000

At 1530 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was seen coming from the Iranian rear opposite the Jallat post at coordinates 8312. It headed towards coordinates 7615 and then back inside Iranian territory.

29. 9 February 2000

At 1300 hours an Iranian helicopter was seen coming from the north flying parallel to the border strip inside Iranian territory. It then headed towards Sumar.

30. 9 February 2000

At 1500 hours the Iranian side pitched two tents opposite the Fada'iyah post at coordinates 520412 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). To the right of the tents are three defensive positions, and there are two positions to the left. The positions are occupied, each by four persons armed with GC assault rifles, from 1800 hours until 0600 hours on the next day.

31. 9 February 2000

At 1600 hours a helicopter was seen over Iranian territory opposite the Salah al-Din post while heading towards the Iranian Miyah Tanak post opposite the Haran post. It then returned inside Iranian territory.

32. 10 February 2000

At 0715 hours the Iranian side fired six 82-mm mortar rounds that fell on our units at coordinates 6917 on the shore of Hawr al-Murays.

33. 10 February 2000

At 0930 hours sounds of light-, medium- and heavy-weapons fire were heard from the area opposite the Darraji post at coordinates 103718 (1:100,000 map of Zorbatiyah). The detonations continued until 1100 hours.

34. 11 February 2000

At 1125 hours the Iranian side fired 12 launcher-type rockets that fell opposite our units in the Shihabi area (Mulla Nafi' village) at coordinates 4635. There were no losses.

35. 11 February 2000

At 1300 hours the Iranian side fired seven Katyusha launcher-type rockets that impacted in the area between Za'faran and Kharinah at coordinates 4833 opposite our units.

36. 12 February 2000

At 1400 hours two khaki-coloured helicopters were seen coming from the Darraji post at coordinates 1071 (1:100,000 map of Zorbatiyah) towards the Muhammad al-Qasim post at coordinates 160. They reconnoitred the sector along the border strip and then landed in Mehran city. They later returned to the Iranian rear by the same route.

37. 12 February 2000

38. 13 February 2000

At 1300 hours the Iranian side pitched a 180-pound tent at coordinates 5348 opposite our units. It was occupied by eight soldiers armed with light and medium weapons.

39. 14 February 2000

The Iranian side fired three launcher-type rockets that impacted in the Rashidah area at coordinates 4834, Amarah sector.